

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
27 February 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Indications of the Transfer of SAM Sites
in Cuba from Soviet to Cuban control

1. We have no indications that any SAM sites have been turned over to Cubans yet. Our information is too scanty at this time to permit a conclusive judgment on the timing of such a transfer. We believe that SAM training for Cubans is under way, although we have little direct evidence as to when such training may have begun.

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2. Following are summaries of the significant intelligence, arranged in chronological order, we have received indicating that transfer of the SAM sites to the Cubans is planned:

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b. In his speech of 22-23 February, Fidel Castro implied that Cuban technicians were needed to "manage" SAM systems. He said, "We need a good technician to manage a surface-to-air missile, but at the same time we take him out of school. No, it hurts to lose a good technician. What to do?"

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3. In a previous memorandum, we have pointed out that if training of Cubans began sometime in November 1962, the normal training cycle used by the Soviet forces would lead us to expect Cuban units to begin to appear at established SAM sites in March or April 1963. However, if Cubans received SAM training in the USSR or other bloc countries earlier in 1962, they could already have begun to replace Soviet units.